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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/771,457	SANTA CRUZ ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Winnie Yip	3637	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to October 19, 2002.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 7-16.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in applicant's response filed October 19, 2002.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 7:

Line 2, changed "a second support member: and a third support member:" to -- a second support member; and a third support member; --.

Line 15, changed "multiple prior art drive motors" to --at least one or multiple drive motors respectively--.

Line 17, changed "for containment of" to --to contain--.

In claim 8:

Line 2, changed "a second support member: and a third support member:" to -- a second support member; and a third support member; --.

Line 17, changed "multiple prior art drive motors" to --at least one or multiple drive motors respectively--.

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In claim 9:

Line 2, changed “a second support member: and a third support member:” to -- a second support member; and a third support member; --.

Line 15, changed “multiple prior art drive motors” to --at least one or multiple drive motors respectively--.

In claim 13:

Line 2, before “elongated”, changed “an” to --said--.

In claim 15:

Line 2, changed “a second support member: and a third support member:” to -- a second support member; and a third support member; --.

Line 19, changed “multiple prior art drive motors” to -- at least one or multiple drive motors respectively --.

In claim 16:

Line 2, changed “a second support member:” to -- a second support member; --.

Line 3, before “said second “ changed the colon “ ; ” to a semicolon -- ; --.

Line 18, changed “multiple prior art drive motors” to --at least one or multiple drive motors respectively--.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 7-16 are allowed.

Reasons For Allowance

4. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record, whether taken individually or in combination, does not reveal or render obvious a

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telescopic stage device comprising three support members being shaped and sized to be telescopically retained within each other and having attachment means, internal compartments, and at least one rod operated by at least one drive motor with combination structural limitations in arrangement as claimed.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Citations

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Errato '323, Ray '704 St-Germain '917 teach various movable stages comprising telescopic platforms or curtains mounted thereon as similar to the claimed invention.

Inquiry Contacts

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Winnie Yip whose telephone number is 571-272-6870. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on 571-272-6867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Winnie Yip
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3637

wsy
September 9, 2005